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DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

Draft copy for 2nd MARINE DIVISION

Release Number: PR 0905-01
Date: 05 September 2005
Contact: PAO, TF 1-110th IN

3rd Brigade Iraqi Army (IA) In Effect

HABBANIYAH, IRAQ – Now that all of 3rd Bde IA have “boots on ground” in Habbaniyah, operational momentum is kicking up.

Approximately two thousand additional troops of IA have begun presence patrols and focused area missions in and around Habbaniyah, Iraq. This more than doubles the amount of Coalition Forces in the TF Panther area of operations (AO.) The Soldiers of 3rd Bde just completed their first combat tour – seven months guarding the streets of Mosul, in Northern Iraq before coming to Habbaniyah.



IA Soldiers detain a local insurgent in Kaldiyah.

These Soldiers are no strangers to war. As time goes on, it is the goal of Coalition Forces and the new Iraqi Government, to grant 3rd Bde IA and other competent units, their own battle space. According to several TF Panther Soldiers, their Iraqi counterparts are “fit for the fight.”

The pressure is on and Coalition Forces are gearing up for the elections. The new breed of Iraqi Army is well-trained and not afraid to take initiative. These fine Soldiers deserve the confidence and respect of the Iraqi people. The IA needs the support of their fellow countrymen in order to neutralize the insurgency and foster a safe environment for all of Iraq. The future of the newly established Iraqi democracy rests in the hands of its citizens.

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